



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to submit Department of Energy views regarding H.R. 1524, cited as the "Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1983", as ordered reported by the Committee on Education and Labor.

The Act prohibits the use of polygraph tests for hiring, discharging or disciplining employees in the private sector. The prohibitions in the bill do not apply to Federal, State or local governments. The bill also exempts consultants and contractors employed to perform intelligence or counterintelligence functions by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency.

The Department of Energy would oppose H.R. 1524 unless it were amended to exempt Department of Energy contractor employees engaged in work related to the national defense or national security. National security activities of the department include the research, development, testing, and manufacture of all U.S. nuclear weapons; the verification of international arms control agreements; the control of sensitive technology transfers, and the dissemination of classified information. In cooperation with the Department of Navy, DOE also develops nuclear ship-propulsion systems. A large percentage of our work relating to national defense and national security is performed by employees of contractors to the Department of Energy. Because DOE contractor employees are not covered by any of the exemptions in the bill, they would not be subject to any polygraph tests under this legislation. Because of the importance to national defense of the work performed by DOE national security contractors, we believe that it would be most unwise to preclude their use of polygraph tests. To avoid that result, the following amendment is suggested:

Insert the following new subsection on page 6,
between lines 7 and 8.